



## Beginning Homework • Week 5

### Sit-Stay & Down-Stay

If your dog has built up some duration and distraction, introduce a bit of distance. Rock back a step, return to your dog, then say "yes" and treat. Don't forget your release word! As your dog succeeds, increase the distance in increments. If your dog can't remain in a stay, back up your training to less distance and build from there.

We've now introduced the 3 D's of stay: duration, distraction and distance. You must build on each of these as separate exercises until your dog has a solid understanding of each. Then, you can slowly start to combine the three to increase the difficulty and proof your dog's stay.

### Leave it (step 3)

Give your dog a set length of leash, place your leash hand at your waist and toss the treat onto the floor out of your dog's reach. Say "leave it." As soon as the leash slackens or your dog's nose is taken off treat, say "yes" and treat. Once your dog is consistently successful at this level, the next step is to wait for your dog to back off the item AND turn his head.

### Close

Continue this each time you take your dog out for a walk. The more you practice consistently, the quicker your dog will develop nice leash habits. Hang in there!

### Recalls

- Work on increasing the speed of your dog's recalls. An excited dog will be more likely to come and to come quickly. Be exciting for your dog! Use a high pitched voice, run quickly away from your dog as you call him, use hot dog, a toy...be creative!
- Continue increasing distance &/distraction into your recalls while out on walks.
- Continue playing the recall games. These are great practice and are also a wonderful way to tire out your dog.

### Waiting at doorways

Stand in front of your dog near the door. Open the door just a couple of inches. If your dog tries to bust past you, say "ah-ah!" and use your body and/or the door to block your dog's movement forward (be careful not to close your dog's nose in the door!).

Try this again and when your dog pauses, say "yes" and reward (in this case, going outside is the reward). As your dog starts to understand the exercise, add your verbal cue "wait" and open the door a bit wider. The goal is to be able to open the door wide and have your dog wait for permission to go through.

\*When practicing "wait" at doors to the outside, always have your dog on leash for safety.

## Grooming and first aid

Teach your dog to accept (and even like!) grooming and first aid.

- Practice when your dog is tired.
- Figure out if your dog is more comfortable in a sit, down or stand position while being handled.
- Build his comfort level slowly first with your hands, then with the equipment (i.e. clippers).
- Use lots of treats! (i.e. touching toe = treat, brush = treat, etc.)
- Trim toenails on a regular basis (every couple/few weeks). Just take off the tips. If you accidentally cause your dog to bleed, distract your dog by giving lots of treats and apply styptic powder.
- Play dress-up! Put a t-shirt/ace bandage on your dog. Be sure to give your dog treats.
- Play veterinarian! Examine your dog as a vet would (refer to week 2 homework: handling/restraint). Use safe, household items as "vet instruments." Remember to give treats!

## Trick

Teach your dog a trick to show off at graduation. Some ideas are spin, shake, roll over and sit pretty.

\*\*\*\*\*BRING YOUR LUCKY BONES TO GRADUATION NEXT WEEK FOR THE RAFFLE!\*\*\*\*\*